


A NEW SPECIES OF TETRACHYRON (ASTERACEAE - HELIANTHEAE)

FROM OAXACA, MEXICO.

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Mexico, in its more remote, poorly collected regions, continues to yield many localized endemics, some of them remarkably distinct. This is attested to by the following novelty in Tetrachyron which follows upon the heels of a thorough monographic study of the genus by Wussow and Urbatsch (1979) who recognized but 5 species in the group. The genus was formerly placed under the wing of Calea, but properly segregated in my opinion. Contrary to the views of Wussow and Urbatsch, I think that Tetrachyron is close to, if not within, the broad limits of the tribe Coreopsideae as envisioned by Turner and Powell (1977). That is, Tetrachyron appears to be an ancestral group within or near this tribe, not especially like Coreopsis, Bidens, etc., but in the mold of the Mexican genera Guardiola, Espejoa, etc., as discussed by Turner and Powell (1977, p. 725).

TETRACHYRON TORRESII B.L. Turner, sp. nov.  Fig. 1.

T. brandegei accedens sed foliis amplioribus ovatis vel deltoideis dentatis; flores capituli paucioribus.

Reportedly a suffruticose herb up to 40 cm high, but seemingly a shrub or subshrub of larger proportions. Stems terete, grey and noticeably lenticelate, the secondary shoots with densely clustered knobby nodes. Leaves opposite, 3-5 cm long, glabrous; petioles 3-10 mm long, with a tapering incurved wing throughout; blades ovate to trianguloid, 3-nervate from near the base, the margins dentate, especially below, the apices acute. Heads 5, turbinate, borne in short, terminal, subumbellate, clusters, the branches glabrous. Involucres 3-4 mm long, 2-3 seriate, subimbricate, glabrous; bracts ovate-lanceolate, somewhat scarious, yellowish. Ray florets 3-5, pistillate, fertile; tube ca 1 mm long; limb tubulo-funnelform 2.5-3.0 mm long, the lobes acute, ca 0.6 mm long. Achenes (immature) ca 1.5 mm long, glabrous, somewhat 4-sided; pappus of 4 hyaline scales ca 0.4 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. OAXACA: Distr. de Tehuantepec, 8.9 km N de Lechiguiri, 10 Dec 1983, R. Torres C. et al. 4314, (holotype TEX; isotypes MEXU, to be distributed).

Related to T. brandegei: but immediately distinct by its larger, ovate to trianguloid, dentate leaves and fewer-flowered heads. According to label data it occurs in relic deciduous forests dominated by Liquidambar.

It is a pleasure to name this remarkable species for its only known collector, Mr. R. Torres of UNAM, who has assembled a fine series of "comps" from throughout Mexico.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Turner, B.L. and A.M. Powell, 1977. Helenieae - systematic review. In, *The Biology and Chemistry of the Compositae* 2:700-737. (eds. Heywood et al.) Academic Press, London.

Wussow, J.R. and L.E. Urbatsch. 1979. A systematic study of the genus Tetrachyron (Asteraceae: Heliantheae). *Syst. Bot.* 4:297-318.

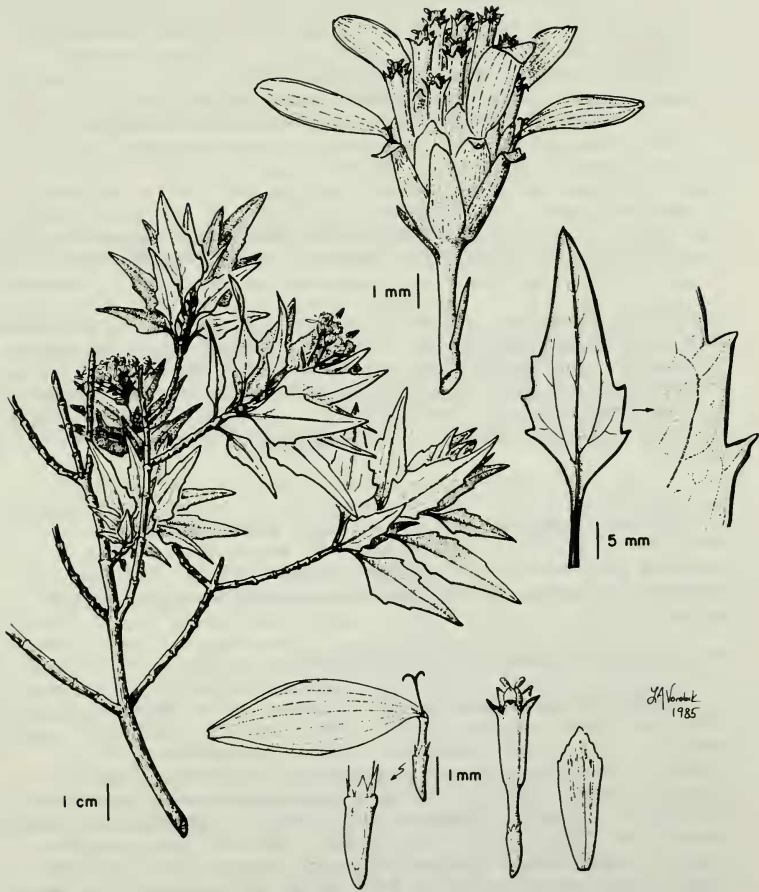


Fig. 1. TETRACHYRON TORRESII, from holotype.